(b) Category-wise details of staff are not maintained.

(c) The total number of electric locomotives as on 01.01.1995 & 31.12.2005 were 2316 and 3163 respectively whereas there were 4247 and 4953 diesel locomotives during 1994-95 & 2004-05 respectively.

Operation of container freight trains by private operators

2085. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent decision of his Ministry to 'throw open' the operation of container freight trains to private operators will result in substantial reduction in freight tariffs;

(b) if so, whether it would not adversely affect the working of Government Container Corporation and its operation would become loss making; and

(c) whether the additional investment of Rs. 2500 crores in creating more line capacity for the heavy traffic routes would be able to recover the invested amount in a foreseeable future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Electrification of railway routes in South Central Railway

2086. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval for electrification of any railway routes especially in the South Central Railway Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the specific reasons for rejecting the approvals in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The details of approved/sanctioned railway routes for electrification in South Central Railway are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Route	Route Kilo-metres	Estimated cost (Rs. in crore)	Status
1.	Nandalur-Guntakal	222	152	Electrification work is being taken up by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.
2.	Guntakal-Wadi	228	163	Part of Guntakal-Wadi-Pune project for which bankability report alongwith doubling has been submitted by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Final decision will be taken after appraisal of the report.
3.	Lingampali-Wadi	161	95	Included in Rail Budget 2006-07 with an outlay of Rs. 5 crore.
4.	Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi	105	41	Electrification work is in progress.
5.	Karepalli-Bhadrachalam-Monuguru	88	41	Preparatory works in hand.

(c) Does not arise.

KIOCL tie-up with NMDC and SAIL

2087. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) has opened an office in Bhubaneshwar (Orissa);

(b) if so, the status of this office;

(c) whether there is proposal for a tie-up of KIOCL with NMDC and SAIL; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a liaison office headed by a Deputy Manager has been opened in Bhubaneshwar, Orissa by KIOCL.

(c) and (d) KIOCL has signed a Long Term Agreement (LTA) with NMDC for meeting major portion of its requirement of iron ore. KIOCL has also signed an MOU with SAIL for setting up a Joint Venture (JV) to mine iron ore at Kalta, Taldih and Barsua mines in Orissa.